# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# TOURISM AND CULTURE
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4189
ANSWERED ON:18.08.2000
DEVELOPMENT OF BUDDHIST HISTORICAL SITES
AMBATI BRAHMANAIAH

**Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:**

(a) whether any financial assistance has been promised or secured from any foreign country or from any financial institution for the development of Buddhist historical sites;

(b) if so, details of such aid secured during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government have asked the State Governments to submit the plans forthe development of such sites of historical interest; and

(d) if so, the details of States which have submitted the plans for use of such foreign funds on developing Buddhist sites?

## Answer

MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTHKUMAR)

(a) and (b): Yes, Sir. The Government entered into a loan agreement with the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund(OECF) of Japan in January, 1992 for conservation and development of Ajanta & Ellora in Maharashtra. The Overseas Economic CooperationFund assistance is to the tune of 3745 million Japanese Yen. The major components of the project are afforestation, upgradation of airporot facilities at Aurangabad, strengthening and improvement of roads, augmentation of water supply and sewage, improvement of electricity supply, conservation of monuments and visitors management facilities. The project is expected to be completed by March, 2002.

The Government had also entered into a loan agreement with the OverseasEconomic Cooperation Fund(OECF) of Japan in December ,1988 for development of infrastructure facilities along with identified Buddhist circuit in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. It was agreed that Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund would extend financialassistance to the tune of 7.7 billion Japanese Yen. The major components of the project were strengthening of National Highways, State Highways, landscaping, augmentation ofwater and electricity supply, provision of wayside amenities etc. The places covered under this project are Sarnath, Kushinagar, Piprahawa, Sravasti in Uttar Pradesh and Bodhgaya, Nalanda, Rajgir and Vaishali in Bihar. The project has been completed at the cost of Rs. 251.050 crores in December, 1998.

(c)&(d): Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) is not taking up anynew projects in India at present because the Japanese Government have frozen Yen loans for all new projects as per economic measures following conduct of nuclear tests in May 1998.